

Genoa Comprehensive Planning Group Notes
Monday 15 June 2009

Present: Maria Bachich, Dave Baildon Jr., John Berry, Peggy Bradley, Anto Parseghian, Barb Patchen, Dave Stilwell, Dan Thayer, Susan Tosto, Karin Wikoff.

1. **Committee Chair:** Dave Stilwell reports that he has spoken with Dan DalCais, who is stepping down as chair. Dave asked that we all recognize all the work Dan has done getting the committee going. Dave indicated his willingness to take on the chairmanship. No other volunteers were forthcoming, so it was put to a vote and all were in favor of Dave being our new chair.

2. **County Planning Committee Representatives:** Peggy noted that John Berry is our primary representative to the County Planning Committee, and Dave Stilwell is our alternate. Stuart Underwood, Supervisor, sent their names in officially some weeks ago, but neither John nor Dave has received letters. Peggy will follow up with the County.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Previous meeting minutes for 1 May 2009 were reviewed and approved.

4. **Review of Action Items from Previous Meetings:**

A. Survey Subcommittee has not met because Maria was out of town. They will need input from the Inventory Subcommittee to proceed.

B. Inventory Subcommittee met 3 June, then 8 June with the Genoa Historical Association.

C. Marketing Subcommittee is currently a committee of one; Susan Tosto has been working on some ideas and texts.

D. A list of historical places in Genoa was covered during the meeting with the GHA.

E. Dave has not had a chance to get the USGS Water Resource Survey info from his colleague yet, but he will and he will also coordinate with Maria on this issue. Peggy noted that Owasco Lake is now cleaner than Cayuga Lake, thanks in part to funding obtained by Senator Nozzolio and the full-time Water Steward they have hired. Maria is part of a group who are monitoring the water in streams as part of a long-term study.

F. Karin provided links to information on the Clean Water Act in the notes from the 3 June Inventory Subcommittee meeting.

G. Karin has gathered some basic demographic info from the U.S. Census Bureau and found it to be difficult to ascertain which figures are correct, as they do not add up. She has some contact people and will ask them for assistance.

H. Dave has been in touch with Maria and Susan and they will continue to work together to better integrate our efforts.

I. Susan has been developing ideas for articles in local newspapers, including some text she shared with us. Karin will share some things she has written as well in case there's anything Susan can use to write up a brief, succinct blurb for the website. Tonya Miles is the new webmaster, and the site has recently been entirely redesigned.

J. John Berry is our primary rep to the County Planning Committee, Dave Stilwell is the alternate, but they have not had their letters and did not get to attend the 12 May training meeting.

K. Dave has spoken with Dan DalCais, who is stepping down as Chair.

L. Karin made sure Dave put the Wheat Festival discussion in our agenda for today. Susan has written an e-mail to Dan Utter, who organizes the Wheat Festival and is awaiting a reply.

5. Reports from Subcommittees:

A. Inventory:

Current Approach: Our current approach is to meet with experts and constituencies in various areas, gather information and input, with the plan to put some of the info into an article to share it with the community, and thereby generate some interest so when we ask some focused survey questions, people can react to some facts. Also, by meeting with experts, we can gather information they have already put together and not have to start from scratch ourselves all the time.

30 April Meeting: On 30 April, the Inventory Subcommittee met with members of the County Planning Board in Auburn. Geoff Milz is our primary contact. We identified a list of types of information the County can provide, and Geoff will be working his way through the list, getting us info a bit at a time when his schedule allows. He has already given us a number of GIS maps, which, thanks to Sue and Peggy, we will be storing in the closet in the Town Hall. (We have two copies of most of the maps, so we can write on one and keep the other clean for presentations). Peggy will also be setting up the scanner/copier for us to use on occasions when the copier in the office is not available to us.

Maps from County: Some of the maps and information Geoff is providing includes roadways, land use, land use broken down by ag use, an ownership map, taxes by property tax code, and residences by age, among other things. When we review the maps and information, sometimes we can identify further more detailed information we'll need. We can then ask if the County can provide it. Much of this information is reviewed in the notes from the 3 June meeting of the Inventory Subcommittee.

Community Land: One thing we have noted from the maps is that the Town of Genoa has no lakefront property, nor any public community land such as parks or playgrounds. This may be something we'd like to include as a goal for the future.

3 June Meeting: On June 3, 2009, the Inventory Subcommittee met to see what info they have so far. Maps, info from the county, census info and Dan Thayer's write-up on public services (town properties, school district, internet and TV, public water, highways and roads, electric service and fire departments) were all reviewed. For more information, see the minutes for the 3 June meeting.

8 June Meeting: On June 8, the Inventory Subcommittee met with the Genoa Historical Association. They shared information, discussed their respective work and Hans Pecher agreed to write up a brief history of the Town of Genoa for use in the comprehensive plan. For more details of the meeting and information exchanged, see the minutes for the 8 June meeting.

Notes from Discussion: Reports of these meetings were given and discussion ensued.

Additional Sources for Information: The State has “powerful information,” possibly the school, though they don’t break it out by Town, or possibly even the mail carriers, though there may be some legal issues involved in their sharing. The “Imagemate” website has maps.

USDA Census of Agriculture: Dan Thayer noted that he’d been looking at the USDA Census of Agriculture for 2007 (<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>) as another source of information. Their website has all kinds breakdowns like by farm size, gross profits, what kind of products, etc. The breakdown by zip code will be available in July.

Interacting with Experts: Dan and Karin both report some difficulty in reaching the busy experts and leaders of various constituencies in our community. They also note some difficulty in getting across to them what we are doing and what we are asking of them. Other times people you would think have information don’t – like that the school can’t tell us how many children from the Town of Genoa are enrolled. Peggy notes that many times, these experts have already gathered information we are seeking so we don’t have to start over from scratch. We might consult other towns’ plans and contact their planners for tips.

Internet Info: Peggy noted that much information on Internet access in the Town of Genoa has already been gathered by another group. She will share information with Dan Thayer as he puts together the public services inventory.

Highway Issues: Dan related that during his conversation with Frank Sellen, Highway Superintendent, Frank noted the extra damage done to roads by the increase in extremely heavy farm truck traffic and how that is an issue the Highway Department would like to see addressed.

Public Water: Dan notes that there are 300 active accounts and fewer than 1,000 people in the water district, which includes those in King Ferry. Peggy notes that Mickey Petchuta is the new head of the Water Commission and they are about to re-do the district map. Dan had contacted Water Commission member Brenda Tyrrell and not heard anything back yet.

Electric: NYSEG is the only provider. There is no natural gas available. No one seems to know anything about any land in Genoa owned by utilities. Apparently NYSEG owns most of the utility poles, though some are owned by the phone company. Nothing is known of any leasing deals between utilities for the use of each others’ poles. We would also like to know about any rights-of-way or utility line corridors, but existing and planned for the future.

Fire Departments: Dan notes that he did finally reach Glen Warner, the King Ferry Fire Chief, and he was very positive and interested in sharing their concerns. They are worried about the lack of new, young volunteers to be members of the fire departments and they may have to consolidate. Peggy noted that there will be a redistricting meeting of fire districts at the Holiday Inn on 16 June. For the record, Tyrone Shiels is the Fire Commissioner, Doug LeFave is the Genoa Fire Chief and Glen Warner is the King Ferry Fire Chief.

Progress: Our work is evolving. We’re making our first pass, seeing what’s available, what’s relevant, hoping to work up a feedback loop with the public.

B. Marketing:

Susan shared a draft for an article about the plan and the process. Karin will share some reusable text with her, and help work up a brief introductory blurb for the top of the Comprehensive Planning Committee page on the Town of Genoa website.

C. Survey:

Maria has been out of town but will call a meeting of the Survey Subcommittee after she has had a chance to meet with Dave and Susan to coordinate questions to accompany or follow-up Susan's articles in the paper. The Survey Subcommittee needs input of information from the other groups before they can move forward with their work.

6. Looking Forward:

A. Interns: Maria asked if any interns would be available to help, but Peggy indicated that we've had no success getting young people interested. The possibility of asking the Scouts to help, possibly as part of work towards a scouting badge, was brought up.

B. Communication with the Community: Peggy will send out more informational e-mails, as she did at the very beginning of the process, especially now we'll be able to direct people to a website with more info. Tonya Miles has mounted the Town's new redesigned website which has a separate section for the Comprehensive Plan. As Secretary, Karin volunteered to be the recipient of e-mails from a link to be placed on the page. She can correspond as needed, and disseminate any incoming e-mail from the public to the wider group. Susan and Karin will work up a brief introduction to go at the top of our new page explaining briefly who we are and what we are doing. As we put things together, we can include information about next meetings, a timeline and updates as well as the minutes of our meetings. Another idea is having the Planning Committee host events where experts give public presentations, doing teasers, or even YouTube videos – Hans Pecher has done one for the Genoa Historical Association on the threshing barn.

C. Wheat Festival: Peggy will bring our request to the Wheat Festival Committee. We would like to have a table, either inside or out. We might even be able to have a talk immediately before the festival. We will need some sort of hand-out people can take away with them with some basic information, the website address and contact information.

D. Engaging Other Committee Members in the Work:

--Maria will help Dan Thayer reach public services contact by making day phone calls while Dan is at work.

--Peggy will help identify contacts with info (ex. Internet)

--Anto will help put together the interdenominational church group meeting.

--Looking for a volunteer to draw in the business community, which we may need to break into smaller groups, such as businesses at the crossroads in King Ferry (ex. Marnie at the new coffee shop).

Meetings: Dave will prepare and distribute agendas in advance. New folks will be directed to review the notes of previous meetings so we can focus on current business at meetings. Henceforth our regular full committee meetings will be on the second Monday of each month, so our next meeting will be Monday, 13 July at 7 PM at the Genoa Town Hall.

7. Action Items:

- Dave will get the USGS Water Resource Survey info from his colleague, and will also coordinate with Maria on this issue, since she is involved in the water testing in local streams.
- Dave will continue to work with Geoff Milz to gather more maps and information for our collection.
- Karin will try to get more clear numbers for the basic demographics by calling upon some of the expert contacts she has identified.
- Dave, Susan and Maria will coordinate efforts to start the “feedback loop” with the public – feeding info from the Inventory Subcommittee to the Marketing and Survey Subcommittees so they can publish an article with follow-up survey questions.
- Susan will work with Karin to create a brief, succinct introduction to our work for the new website.
- Peggy will find out what’s going on with our Representatives to the County Planning Committee and why they have not yet had any official communication from the County.
- Peggy will bring our request to the Wheat Festival Committee, while Susan will let us know what she hears from Dan Utter, the Wheat Festival organizer.
- Peggy will set up the scanner/copier for us to use when access to the office is not available.
- Someone (maybe Dave Baidon would be willing?) will follow up with Hans Pecher about the brief history Hans is writing for the Comprehensive Plan.
- Dan Thayer will continue to follow-up on public services information and setting up meetings with the various experts.
- Maria will help Dan with daytime phone calls.
- Peggy will help identify sources for info already gathered, such as the Internet Survey group’s data.
- Karin will continue to pursue a meeting with an interdenominational church group.
- Anto will assist Karin putting together the church group meeting.
- Karin will work with Susan, Peggy and Tonya Miles to get all the new information posted on the website.
- Someone (new volunteer(s)) will coordinate a meeting or meetings with businesses in the community and possibly also from the school.
- Dave will call the next meeting of the Inventory Subcommittee.
- Maria will call the next meeting of the Survey Subcommittee, coordinating with other subcommittees.
- Susan will prepare an article for publication, coordinating with other subcommittees.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Wikoff
Secretary, Town of Genoa Comprehensive Planning Committee